

What is Claimed is:

1. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least 70% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to amino acid 53 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b); and

(d) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 bases of the polynucleotide of (a), (b) or (c).

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

3. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.

4. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 comprising nucleotide 58 to 371 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

5. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 comprising nucleotide 142 to 370 set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

6. The polynucleotide of Claim 2 which encodes a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to 53 of SEQ ID NO:2.

7. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide having at least a 70% identity to a member selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polynucleotide encoding the same mature polypeptide expressed by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97406;

- (b) a polynucleotide complementary to the polynucleotide of (a); and
- (c) a polynucleotide comprising at least 15 bases of the polynucleotide of (a) or (b).

8. A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 2.
9. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 8.
10. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising: expressing from the host cell of Claim 9 a polypeptide encoded by said human cDNA.
11. A process for producing a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising: transforming or transfecting the cell with the vector of Claim 8.
12. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to a member selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to 53 of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (c) a polypeptide comprising at least 15 amino acid residues of the polypeptide of claim (a) or (b).
13. A polypeptide comprising amino acid 1 to 53 of SEQ ID NO:2.
14. An agonist to the polypeptide of claim 12.
15. An antibody specific to the polypeptide of claim 12.
16. An antagonist which inhibits the activity of the polypeptide of claim 12.
17. A method for the treatment of a patient having need of CCIII comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 12.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein said therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide is administered by providing to the patient DNA encoding said polypeptide and expressing said polypeptide *in vivo*.

19. A method for the treatment of a patient having need to inhibit CCIII polypeptide comprising: administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of the antagonist of Claim 16.

20. A process for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease related to expression of the polypeptide of claim 12 comprising:

determining a mutation in the nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide.

21. A diagnostic process comprising:

analyzing for the presence of the polypeptide of claim 12 in a sample derived from a host.

22. A method for identifying compounds which bind to and activate or inhibit a receptor for the polypeptide of claim 12 comprising:

contacting a cell expressing on the surface thereof a receptor for the polypeptide, said receptor being associated with a second component capable of providing a detectable signal in response to the binding of a compound to said receptor, with a compound to be screened under conditions to permit binding to the receptor; and

determining whether the compound binds to and activates or inhibits the receptor by detecting the presence or absence of a signal generated from the interaction of the compound with the receptor.